THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 16TH MARCH.

LORD WOLSELEY'S military tactics are being questioned in all quarters. His 'Nile route' is disapproved of even by his own subordinates. It is said that General Stevenson has declined to take the command of the force which is to proceed along the route; and experts without exception declare the route impossible. His falling back on Dongola notwithstanding the relief all of us are feeling for the safety of the British troops from unnecessary and useless dangers while at Korti, is considered by the Englishmen residents of Africa as a retrograde measure. Mr. James in his "Wild Tribes of the Soudan" condemns the line of march chalked out by our generalissmo; and Sir Samuel Baker also characterised the movement as a 'water picnic.' Lord Wolseley bears a charmed name, and we hope he will be able to spread his charms over Kafristan, and tame the Arabs, as does a mountebank his apes and goats.

REGARDING Mr. Malabari's proposals to force Hindu Society to introduce widow-marriage into it, a contemporary, a representative of the advanced school of reformers, very justly remarks:—"It is admitted on all hands, that is, by all competent and impartial observers, that the evils of infant marriage and especially of widowhood are not so great as they have been represented to be by hasty critics, and that legislation is certainly not the best method of removing such evils as there are. The institution of the Parsee Matrimonial Court has introduced infinitely greater evils than it has removed. The testimony is perfectly clear, if indeed any testimony was necessary at all to show, that Force is not an agent of Progress. Assume that society exercises coercion on individuals who choose to break through custom; is society to be coerced in order to make it reasonable? A society is nothing more than a collection of individuals. A collection of individuals has at least as much right to liberty as a single individual. To introduce liberty by the suppression of liberty would be selfcontradictory in principle and dangerous in practice. The only rational method of dealing with a backward society is to educate it up to that standard which would make it sympathize with its most advanced members. But do what we will, some members will be more advanced than others, and it will never be pretended that society must for ever be forced on to run with the swiftest of its members. To give liberty to widows to remarry is all right. That liberty they already enjoy. But we deny that there is any necessity for encouraging widows to marry, or men to marry widows. It is one thing to tolerate a practice because it is unobjectionable, and quite another thing to bestow rewards for an act because it is meritorious. Widow-marriage is unobjectionable, but it would be madness to call it meritorious. It is somewhat at a discount in every country. Even in European countries, we believe, men like to marry maids rather than widows. There may be special considerations which induce the young advocate to marry 'a rich attorney's elderly ugly daughter;' and so there may be special considerations to induce men to marry widows. But talking of the rule, we deny that widows are preferred to maids by men seeking to marry, and Government has never thought fit in any country to make widows more tempting than they are. The poor widow, the plain-looking widow will never attract admirers; the rich or the young and handsome widow probably will. When it is found, therefore, that so few widow-marriages take place in India, that fact ought to be attributed not only to the aversion of Hindu society to the institution but also to the dearth of widows whom worldly men will care to marry."

"A CABLE MESSAGE has been received by the New Zealand premier from the Agent General, Sir Francis Dillon Bell, stating that it is probable Germany would forego her claim to the portion of New Guinea which she has annexed, if the English Government permitted her to annex Samoa." The idea is highly distasteful to the New Zealand government, who have asked the Victorian and other Australian colonies not to entertain it. Mr. Service has informed Mr. Stout that Victoria will readily join in protesting against the proposal.

SMALL WONDER, says the *Planters' Gazette*, that Colonel Ben Williams only managed to get sixteen ponies at Lahore for the Soudan, when the Calcutta Tramways Company ruins the market by giving the fearful prices they do for their requirements.

AN EMISSARY of the Mahdi, at present living in England, has made a statement in Arbic, a translation of which has been furnished to the Press. The writer, referring to statements that the Mahdi, from the very nature of his mission, cannot negotiate for peace, points out that Mohamed himself concluded treaties of peace not only with Christians but also with idolators. "For this reason," he continues, "it is impossible for the Mahdi," in his character of Mahdi, "to refuse a peace which is to put an end to bloodshed, provided, that such a peace shall benefit, the Moslems. His mission is to spread civilization in the Moslem world, and not ruin and destruction. The Moslems in all parts of the world are waiting for a Mahdi, who shall deliver them from every evil, and the fact of making war against him who has undertaken so sublime a mission, in which lies the sole hope of the Moslem world, must pierce all Moslem hearts and drive them to a general rising. Surely the British nation will be too wise to open gates which are the gates of a flood that would overwhelm the human race."

TUESDAY, 17TH MARCH.

MR. C. PURDON CLARKE, C. I. E., Keeper of the Indian Section of the South Kensington Museum, arrived in Calcutta by the last mail, charged with a special mission by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Executive President of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held in London in 1886. Mr. Purdon Clarke is duly accredited to the Government of India, and will act in concert with Mr. Buck, Secretary to the Agriculture and Commerce Department, which is charged with the formation of collections to represent the Indian Empire. Mr. Clarke's special duty will be "to make arrangements for the illustration on a large scale of the handicrafts of India by the selection of native artisans, who will be taken to England and work at their several trades in Exhibition."

FIVE camps will be formed at Rawalpindi: the Viceroy's, the Amir's, the Lieutenant-Governor's (Punjab), the Civil camp, and the camp of the Punjab Chiefs and their contingents.

"A FEW DAYS before the last mail left England the Roman Catholic Convent of St. Benedict, East Bergholt, Essex, was the scene of the wildest excitement, in consequence of the escape of one of its inmates under somewhat extraordinary circumstances. The mother and two sisters of a nun known as Sister Baptiste visited the Convent, and on being granted an interview with her, locked themselves in her room and refused admittance to the Lady Abbess. They then shouted 'murder and help' from the bedroom window, causing a large crowd to collect. Sister Baptiste then let herself down to the ground by the aid of sheets tied together. She then ran across the open country, followed by a large crowd, whom however, she speedily out-distanced, leaping hedges and ditches. She was ultimately caught and handed over to the care of the Rev Canon Woodley, and subsequently left with her mother for London. Her sisters had previously paraded the streets of the village in a most frantic manner, crying out that they had been forcibly ejected from the Convent and roughly treated."

THE STORY IS WELL-KNOWN OF A COUNTRY servant who told a caller that her mistress *said* she was not at home. They now manage these things better on the Continent by the aid of electrcity. The visitor presents his card to the *concierge*, who telegraphs the name to the *locaitaire*, occupier of the apartment; if he is within, the porter receives back a sign, only visible to himself, denoting whether he will "receive," or not be "bothered."

IN A RECENT case, the High Court of Calcutta made the following remarks on the high-handedness of the Bengal Police:—"It is intolerable, that the police should pursue the investigation of crime by defying all the provisions of the law for the protection of the liberty of the subject." We have had many such opinions recorded before this, but the Government have shelved them *en masse* as beneath its notice. Police vagaries have become so common now-a-days that they have ceased to draw peoples' attention. We wish the Government had taken up the question of Police reform in right earnest once again.

A VIENNA correspondent states that he has received from an officer at present in St. Petersburg, the following information respecting the Russian advance in Central Asia:—

"I read with the greatest interest your telegrams of warning about the fresh progress made by Russia in Central Asia, the more so as the facts you give with such precision coincide with what I have gathered myself at high sources. It would, indeed, have been surprising if, when there is a hunger for new and distant territorial acquisitions on the part of far more steady and sober Continental nations, Russia alone should refrain from advancing another *etape* in the direction she has so long aimed at, and at a moment which appears so favourable I have lately ascertained enough to convince me that Herat will shortly be placed under the Czar's protectorate. In view of that contingency Russia is endeavouring to discredit England among the population of those parts, as with the Persian Government, and has, I regret to say, been more or less successful. The mere fact that the English delegates on the Afghan Frontier Commission have been kept waiting by their Russian colleagues more than six months has damaged England's prestige considerably. The English Commissioners are trying to make up for it by a certain amount of pomp and display, which has already cost more than 40,000*l.*, but has utterly failed in its object. Meanwhile the Russians have occupied several points beyond the line of demarcation which the English Government have in view. Perhaps the only redeeming feature in the tidings from Central Asia is the fact that the Persians have not entered into any kind of agreement with Russia. As a proof, I may mention the following circumstances:—As soon as it transpired that, in consequence of the pending agitation among the Jamut Turkomans, Persia intended to dispatch a few regiments of infantry, 500 Cavalry and a couple of batteries to Asterabad, Russia threatened to, send troops thither too. Whether she has done so or not I cannot say: but there are also reports of a sanguinary encounter between the Russians and the Afghan Turkomans. You are doubtless aware that there is a Russo-Persian Commission of Frontier Delimitation at work just now. It has completed its task from Babadurmas to that point where the River Attrack will form the new boundary line. The Russian delegate, Colonel Caravajeff, has now gone to Tschickishlar, on the Caspian Sea, and will proceed with the delimitation from the mouth of the Attrek—that is to say, inwards from Hassan Kuli. The question concerning Hassan Kuli and the wide divergences respecting the Jamut Turkomans, still remain to be settled. Since the fall of Khartoum the unguarded utterances that have escaped certain prominent officials here have removed all possible doubt as to Russia's intentions with regard to Herat. The opinion at headquarters is that Russia is entitled to England's gratitude for not interfering with her action in Egypt, and that in recognition thereof she must make concessions to Russia in Central Asia, by which phrase is implied a Russian protectorate at Herat."

WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH.

"Two curious items of news are reported from Rangoon. One is that the British Residency at Mandalay has been made over for a French consulate, and the English church and parsonage to the Roman Catholic Mission. The other is that six Eurasian girls are proceeding to Mandalay as maids-of-honour to the Queen." The news must be swallowed *cum grano salis*.

ON THE 19th ult. Her Majesty the Queen inspected the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards at Windsor prior to their departure for the Soudan. At the conclusion of the inspection, her Majesty addressed the principal officers of the regiments as follows:—"I have summoned you here before your departure to wish you heartily God-speed. May God protect you in the day of the battle; may He preserve you in the hour of danger by land and sea, and may He lead you to victory. Confident that my Grenadier Guards will ever maintain the honour and reputation of British soldiers, I rely on your equalling the glorious deeds of those who have lately fought in the distant lands to which you are now proceeding. My thoughts and prayers go with you and your brave comrades, to whom, alas, I cannot also bid farewell as I now do heartily to you. Once more, God bless you."

"THE AMEER is reported to be busily making the necessary arrangements for his journey to India. His escort will consist of picked cavalry and infantry, probably numbering 1,500 to 2,000 men. With him will come some 150 to 200 heads of tribes, so that the durbar will be a highly representive gathering, such as cannot fail to have a marked political effect in Afghanistan, and, eventually, throughout Central Asia. Colonel Afzul Khan, our Envoy in Cabul, will accompany the Ameer on his visit to India. The

Cabul Envoy now in Calcutta will probably leave next week for the Punjab, there to receive Abdul Rahman on his arrival in British territory." Among the various presents which the Ameer is likely to receive on his visit to India are eight sets of telephone apparatus. What will he do with them? asks a contemporary. They may be much appreciated in the Bala Hissar, but who will keep them working? The Ameer is expected at Rawal Pindi on the 28th proximo.

WE HAVE at last the satisfaction to see that papers like the *Civil Military Gazette* and the *Pioneer* are beginning to guage rightly the feelings of the people of this country with regard to Egyptian and Central Asian crises. In noticing the couple of seditious placards found at Amritsar bearing the name of Abdulla, the supposed emissary of the Mahdi, the *Gazette* remarks: "Generally speaking there is less excitement among the native population just now than might be supposed." With regard to the feelings of the people about the advance of Russia, the *Pi* observes:—"The truth is that, throughout native society, there is a large leaven of educated and enlightened men to whom the character and aims of Russian rule are thoroughly understood, and although they may not be altogether satisfied with the British Government, they recognise its benevolence and disinterestedness and value the freedom it bestows on them too much to care to exchange it for the prospect of a Russian despotism. This let it be said, is no fanciful and too flattering view of matters. It reflects the convictions of people in all parts of India with exceptional opportunities of forming sound conclusions and, as well as in other ways, is finding expression in splendid offers of material help to the Government through the length and breadth of the land. Now this steadfast loyalty of an alien race is not merely a sentimental satisfaction, it means many big battalions. And if Russia ever counted on any sympathy among the great body of the natives of Hindustan, much more their active support, she has altogether reckoned without her host."

MESSRS. JOHN FOWLER and Company have applied to the Panjab Government for permission to make a light railway from Umballa to Simla. As neither the Government of India, nor the Punjab Government are anxious to make the line themselves, every encouragement should be given to private enterprise to develop itself.

THE ENGLISH Postmaster General has just issued official instructions upon the subject of gambling, in which he says:—"A case having recently occurred in which betting on horses and playing with cards for stakes far beyond what the players could afford to lose, were proved to have taken place, not only on the official premises, but in some instances during the official hours, the Postmaster General has felt constrained to direct that the superior officer who had taken part and encouraged these malpractices should be dismissed, and that of six subordinates, one should be required to resign, and five be reduced in their class, the reduction ranging from 4 to 44 steps." The demon of gambling does not show its face in India alone; it haunts all habitations and countries, defying the ingenuity of law-givers to prevent its visits.

THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH.

"SNOW-BALLING RIOT IN DUBLIN.—An exciting scene was witnessed at Trinity College, Dublin, on Feb. 17. The students assembled in a body outside the gates, and, snow having fallen heavily, they snow balled every person passing. Some persons retaliated, and a general disturbance ensued. The police were sent for; but they were also vigorously attacked with snowballs, until with their batons they drove the students into the college." Happy Trinitarians, that you live not under the Governorship of Sir Rivers Thompson, nor under the Police Superintendentship of Major Ramsay! or you would have been, like the Dacca school boys, sent to the nearest beak and ordered a "sound thrashing," or like the Nuddea boys *hairaned* and *pareshaned* for a month. The report, does not say whether the college was closed for a year, and the boys rusticated, as at Calcutta, for that period. Professors of the Presidency College, please take note of this.

COUNT D'Herisson, who played an important part during the Franco-German war owing to his knowldge of German, has published, under the title of *Journal d'un Officer d' Ordonnance*, some very interesting experiences of the memorable days of 1870. His account of the negotiation of M. Jules Favre with Bismarck, for an armistice, is well worthy of note. "Everything had been settled with regard to the other French armies, but when mention was made of Garibaldi and the 'Armee de Dijon,' the manner of the Chancellor changed suddenly, his eyes flashed and assumed a savage glare. Yet after some effort to restrain himself, he said with apparent calm, 'My proposal is that we leave him out, him and his, out of our armistice stipulations. He is none of yours. So you may well leave him to me. The small *corps d'armee* that faces him is about equal to his own strength. Let us not busy ourselves with them.' To this, M. Jules Favre demurred, and he showed eloquently that for the honour of France, this could not be. During his reply Bismarck was twisting impatiently on his seat. At length, striking abruptly the table with his forefinger, he exclaimed. 'Yet I must have him prisoner. I must walk him through the streets of Berlin, with a large placard on his back and these words printed on it: Behold the gratitude of Italy! What, after all, we have done for those people! What they do is base! *C'est ignoble*!' Bismarck had in the meantime put down his lighted cigar on the saucer next to him, and the conversation was at an end, when d'Herisson, with exquisite manner and courtesy, offered him the saucer, before the burning weed was extinguished. The Chancellor stared at him for a second, then the flash of his glance was suddenly subdued. He took the cigar good-humouredly, and replied: 'You are right, Captain, it's no use getting out of temper. Nothing can come from it.' And he agreed to include Garibaldi and his crew into the stipulations of the armistice."

"A SINGULAR scene took place at a concert at the Albert Hall on Feb. 14. The band of the Scots Guards played the Dead March in 'Saul' as a tribute to General Gordon; but a considerable part of the audience resented the too absolute assumption that Gordon was dead, and cries of 'Too soon!' almost drowned the music. The bulk of those present, however, rose to their feet, and remained standing while the march was being played."

THE following paragraph from Mr. Marvin's compilation entitled "Reconnoitring in Central Asia" may be read with special reference to operations of recent date, not in Central Asia, but in Africa—"Speaking on this point [Lomakin's failure in warfare with the Tekkes] Scobeleff said to the writer a few months before his death: It is a mistake to engage in frequent wars against border tribes, for they become accustomed to your way of fighting, and each time become more difficult to crush. A general who conducts European troops for the first time against savages can subjugate them with the greatest ease with a minimum of loss and a maximum of effect. But if in reprisals for border raids he keeps advancing and retiring, each successive expedition becomes more difficult, until at last the pacification of the country which, if a thorough policy had been pursued at the outset, would have been a mere military promenade, is impossible without a long and arduous war."

A CONTEMPORARY has the following:—"We do not hear of any of the Bengalee Babu, or Madras B. A's. tendering their services to Government at the present crisis; fighting is not in their line, I presume, but if they want equal rights in all else, they should have an equal share of trouble and fighting when England is threatened by her foes." Yes, the non-official European and Eurasian volunteers who have tendered their services to Government to save India from the Russians, and to smash the Madhi on the banks of the Nile ought to have the country to themselves. By the bye, while ruminating on the news, it came to our mind that a Eurasian corps had in a similar manner offered their services to Lord Canning during the Indian Mutiny; he prudently accepted the offer, and sent out some of the brave sons of Mars to Shahabad, where our warlike friends showed their masterly courage by turning tail at the sight of a handful of mutineers. So brave our Decruzes and Gomezes. If the Eurasians in whose veins a homœopathic dose of Spanish, or Portugese, or English or French or other European blood runs, should take upon themselves the easy task of defending India from foreign aggressions, we would ask our Government to securely go to sleep with a little mustard oil in its nose. Three cheers for our Anglo-Indian and Eurasian friends.

SAYS A CONTEMPORARY: "It is rumoured that H. M. the Queen is much distressed at the unfortunate events in the Soudan. There is some talk about abdication." The whole thing is a fabrication and has no foundation at all. Obviously, some idle gossip is inventing such canards to keep the society astir.

FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH.

THE HOME charges for the year 1882-83, amounted to £13,299,975. 8s. 11d., or about fourteen crores of rupees, in round numbers. The principal items are:—(1) The Right Honorable the Secretary of State, with his assistants and sub-assistants, housekeepers and housemaids (of whom by the way, there are 32) with salaries ranging from £5,000 downward, costing £220,706 a year. (2) Besides passage out and home, India has to pay largely for men who are giving no service. Civil furlough costs £269,961 and military furlough £267,101. (3) As regards the army, besides paying during actual engagement for whatever troops the Cabinet thinks proper to send, India is charged for enlisting and training recruits, about £500,000. If a soldier has earned a "distinguished service" annuity—no matter how or where—the payment of it devolves upon India, so long as India employes him. (4) Pension allowances £3,612,402. (5) For a Mission to the Court of Persia, a Consulate at Jeddah, an establishment in China, India pays £25,366.

MRS. GREEN is said to be the richest woman in the world. When the well-known banking house of J. J. Cisco and Co., United States, failed, it is said that she had twenty-seven millions of good solid securities deposited with them. And yet people say that those were only a part of her enormous wealth.

WE SOMETIMES see people going to sleep while listening to a lecture or a dull debate, or a sermon; they are upbraided for their inattention and are sometimes roused from their sleep by their neighbours. A case of a like nature coming to our notice, as having lately occurred somewhere, reminds us of an old story. While Dr. South was preaching a sermon before Charles II, he found the King and his attendants all asleep, whereupon he called aloud to Lord Lauderdale, "Lord Lauderdale, I am sorry to disturb your repose, but let me entreat you not to snore so loud, lest you awaken his Majesty."

AMONG all kinds of Memorials proposed to perpetuate the memory of the late General Gordon, the most grotesque is the one that has been proposed by the missionaries to establish a proselytizing mission which will begin its work from Khartoum. We only wish to know, whether the missionaries propose to start for the place on their healthful mission just now, or to wait till the war has ended.

A SERIOUS accident occurred to a troop train which was taking the 2nd Royal Irish from Umbala to Rawal Pindi, near Gujarkhan. Three men were killed. Among those more or less hurt, are Colonel Dawson, Leiutenant Symonds, Quarter-Master Hamilton, and three men. The cause of the accident has not yet been discovered.

SOME TEMPERANCE reformers are discouraging the extravagant use of teetotal beverages, contending that human beings really require very little liquid food. The Arabs in the Soudan, where water is very scarce, it is pointed out, never drink more than once in forty-eight hours. It were well, if Temperance Societies could by their arguments and persuasions dissuade people from drinking any liquid at all. We dare say some of these preachers would be a great help to Lord Wolseley in his marches over the Bayuda desert.

"AMSTERDAM has been celebrating the two hundredth brithday of the man who invented thimbles. He was a plain youth, who contrived the first thimble to protect the finger of the girl he was engaged to from being pricked by her needle." Love is a strange inventor.

AN EXTENSIVE fire occurred at Mymensing on the 14th instant. The whole of the mercantile quarter of the town was burnt to ashes. The worst part of the accident was that many lives were lost. It is said that the inhabitants of the town will apply to Government to acquire the town as Raja Surjya Kant Chowdhury, the owner, does not permit people to build pucca houses in it. A public meeting will also be held to devise means to help the needy sufferers.

SATURDAY, 21ST MARCH.

IN NOTICING the receipt of an order from the Russian Government for the supply of certain Anglo-Native papers, our Hare Street contemporary thus libels the native press. It says:—"It would hardly be advisable, however, for the Czar's Government to put too much trust in the representations of the Native Press of India. The greatest admirers of that institution would shrink from claiming for it the attribute of strict veracity." Since the conquest of India by the English, we are being accused of mendacity now and again. Alexander the Great, Megasthenes, Ibn Batuah &c. gave us credit for being a singularly truthful people; even Sir Thomas Roe who came to India in 1700, found us a veracious people. But we are now told that the Indians are the greatest of liars, and why? The reason is not far to seek. Of late years our character is being formed by the light of western civilisation, and we are an imitation, rather a shadow of our conquerors. If, then, the accusation is to be brought home to us, it applies with equal force, if not greater, to our models of the

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domineering race. We will not remind our contemporary of the estimate of his national character made by French men.

"THE PRINCE OF WALES and Prince Albert Victor are going to Berlin to be present at the birthday of the Emperor William on the 22nd of March."

WE TAKE the following from the *Englishman* :— "We understand that the Government of Bengal has decided to appoint a Commission composed of Mr. Beames, the Commissioner of Burdwan, and Mr. P. Nolan, Magistrate of Shahabad, to enquire into the condition of the Amlah and other ministerial employes in the Courts throughout Bengal. During the employment of Mr. J. Beames on special duty in connexion with the Amlah Commission, Mr. Larminie, at present officiating as Commissioner of Orissa, will act as Commissioner of Burdwan, and Mr. C. C. Stevens, Magistrate of the 24 Parganas, will officiate as Commissioner of Chutia Nagpur during the absence on leave of Mr. Hewett."

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL has come out with a contribution to the *Times* under the title of "Mahammadan Question." His main object in writing this letter to the *Thunderer* seems to us to be to allay the apprehensions of those of his countrymen who think that the Indian Mahomedans may make head against the English rule in India on account of the Mahdi's successes in the Soudan. He calculates the Mahomedan population of India at 50 millions, of which, he says, Bengal makes room for 20 millions, and he describes them as a quiet and inoffensive people. But he is of opinion that if the framers of the Bengal Tenancy Bill do not take any account of them in the Bill, and do not try to remove their agrarian grievances, and if their claims to offices under Government be not duly considered, and the supple Hindus supersede them there, they may take fire and assert themselves in a way which it will not be easy for the Indian Government to ignore. Our Ex-Lieutenant-Governor has not at the same time, forgotten to give his favorite Mahomedans a bit of his mind. He tells them, very discouragingly though, that should these 50 millions of Mahomedans rise against the British rule, their fanaticism will be beat out of them by the British soldiery backed by 200 millions of the Hindu population. This is really blowing hot and cold in the same breath; once admonishing the Government to keep the Mahomedans cool by ministering to their wants, and again threatening the Mahomedan population with check at the point of the bayonet, should they disclose any signs of disaffection. Sir George was always remarkable for his inconsistency; and the present one is of a type with his former ones.

WE LEARN that the Hon'ble Sir Steuart Bayley and the Hon'ble W. W. Hunter have proceeded to Haiderabad and Indore respectively.

A CONTEMPORARY hears that the rejection by the British Government of the offer of the Hyderabad Contingent has created considerable dissappointment amongst the troopers who anticipated a trip to the Soudan. They naturally think that the Government have not sufficient confidence in them, but we do not share in this opinion. The fact is, the authorities have every confidence in each and every individual Indian Chief and his followers, but they prefer to finish in the Soudan as they commenced—that is—single-handed.

ON THE AUTHORITY of a contemporary we state that two deserters from the Russian army *viz.*, Joseph Yekoowooski and Joseph Theodoroski were found living at the Stranger's Home at Poona. The cantonment Chief Constable having a scent of it brought them before the Cantonment Magistrate. In their examination before his worship they stated that they came from Bagdad and had thence worked their passage to Bombay. Their object in coming to India was to find work, and they both wanted to enlist in the British army. The Magistrate then directed the Chief Constable to keep them under his protection until further orders.

A SOCIETY paper writes:" A fashion has crept into country-houses which does away with much of the monotony of the strict law concerning' Taking in to dinner.' When the guests are all assembled, a hat containing the names of the ladies written on slips of paper folded up is taken round to the gentlemen, a similar process being employed with the ladies. Although, through this plan, possible enemies may temporarily be linked together, it gives also a chance for friends, and I strongly recommend its adoption."

THE *Statesman* deriving its inspiration from *Surabhi*, states that the Government of India has recorded a minute of displeasure on the Resolution of the Bengal Government on the recent enquiries held at the Presidency Jail. His Excellency the Viceroy considers the treatment of Mr. Beadon as "*far* too linient," and has asked the Lieutenant-Governor to reconsider whether it is "expedient to retain Mr. Beadon" in his post. We are glad to see that His Excellency has thought fit to interfere in a matter like this. Our "Houses of Correction" are no better than 'houses of infliction,' and the subject of their reform should draw the immediate attention of the Government of India.

SAYS the Military Correspondent of the *Englishman;* "It is reported at the clubs that the Queen was intensely annoyed at the Guards being ordered out. So strong was her opposition that she placed a positive veto upon their departure which lasted 24 hours, and was only removed by the exercise of considerable Ministerial persistence. Some people say that Mr. Gladstone and his Cabinet were so savage at being forced into this expedition by the Tories that they determined to send a full brigade of Guards, the officers of which are nearly all Conservatives, to do the fighting. They agreed with the logic of the old song which says that 'those who made the quarrels should be the only men to fight.' The "insinivation" at the end is a rich one of its kind, and must have vastly amused many people. But had such a joke been perpetrated by a Bengali paper, Sir Rivers Thompson would have at once urged the immediate passing of the Gagging Act, and filled the pages of his Administration Report with the most vehement denunciations.

DURING the week ending 14th March there were 246 deaths in the town, of which 32 were from cholera, 7 from small-pox, 77 from fever and the rest from other causes.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :—

London March 15.—The House of Commons last evening agreed, without discussion, to a motion that £20,000 should be granted to General Gordon's family. The Committee for deciding upon a national memorial to Gordon have resolved upon the erection of a hospital at Port Said.

16.—The Prince of Wales and Prince Albert Victor are going to Berlin, to be present there on the birth-day of the Emperor William on March 22.

18.—Lord Fitzmaurice, in reply to a question in the House of Commons last night, said that Government have made representations to France, concerning the seizure of fifty tons of lead on board the *Glenroy*, and his lordship hoped that it will be restored. The Egyptian Convention for settling the financial question has been signed by the Powers.

19.—The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor and the Duke of Edinburgh, left for Berlin yesterday.

20.—The House of Commons have agreed to a resolution last evening, urging the expediency of authorising the Secretary of State for India to raise in the United Kingdom not more than £10,000,000 for the Indian Government on the security of the Indian revenues. Mr. Cross explained that the loan will be issued in conformity with the recommendation of the Committee of last year, in favour of Railway extension in India.

Cairo, March 14.—Zebehr Pasha is strongly suspected of being in communication with the Mahdi, and has been arrested and conveyed on board her Majesty's ship *Iris*.

Alexandria, March 15.—Zebehr Pasha, his son, and three others, are suspected of being in communication with the Mahdi, and have been taken to Cyprus.

Korti, March 15.—A Messenger reports that the Mahdi is encamped below Omderman, and is sending troops to Kordofan to quell the disturbances which have broken out there.

Bombay, March 20.—It is announced in Bombay that it has been arranged to send 15,000 men, of whom 5,000 will be Europeans, to Quetta at once, equipped for active service. Admiral Sir William Hewett succeeds Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards as one of the Lords Commissioners at the Admiralty.

Paris, March 17.—A Commission to discuss the freedom of the Suez Canal meets here on 30th instant.

Paris, March 20.—It is officially announced that only rice, destined for ports north of Canton, will be treated as contraband of war.

Shanghai, March 19.—M. Patenotre has been authorised by the French Government to re-open negociations with China.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(*210, Bow-Bazar Street.*)

(SESSION 1885.)

LECTURE by Babu Jagodish Chunder Bose, B. Sc., &c. *on Thursday*, the *26th Inst.*, at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Conservation of Energy.

The lecture is open to the public.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
Honorary Secretary.

March 21st, 1885.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1885.

THE BUDGET.

I.

THE Budget is again published in the form of a Minute by the Finance Minister. This is the third year in succession that the Government has avoided the necessity of laying the Financial Statement before the Legislative Council. The changes which Sir Evelyn Baring effected in 1882 were so great that their operation must be watched for sometime to come before there could be any new development of our fiscal system. Sir Auckland Colvin recognises this fact in his second Budget. It was a piece of peculiar good fortune for the late Viceroy and the late Finance Minister that no considerable difficulties or extraordinary emergencies arose immediately after the abolition of the custom duties and the reduction of the salt tax. If they had been called upon to grapple with a severe and widespread famine, such as devastated Southern India in 1877-78, or to undertake military operations on the frontier on a large scale the measures taken in 1882-83 would have proved disastrous to our finances. But in the absence of any exceptional circumstances the expectations of Sir Evelyn Baring that the normal increase of revenue would be found to balance the ordinary expenditure, has been fulfilled. Sir Auckland Colvin's policy has, since he assumed charge of the portfolio of Indian finance, been rather a policy of observation than of action. He knows very well that the great secret of governing an Oriental people is to let them alone and make as few changes as possible. He is far too sensible a man to shut his eyes to the fact that though there is nothing in the financial position to cause any particular anxiety, yet the situation is one in which great caution is required. He looks not only to the circumstances of the immediate present but also to the contingencies which may arise in future.

Though the Budget just published presents but little of special attraction so far as any new development of our fiscal system is concerned, it gives an able and lucid exposition of the financial position. We observe that the Accounts for 1883-84 show a surplus of £1,387,496. This result at first sight seems to be much better than what was anticipated. The surplus of the Budget Estimate of that year was taken at £457,000, and that of the Revised Estimate at £271,400 only. There has thus been a considerable difference between the actual surplus and the two forecasts mentioned above. This is partly due to an increase of revenue over expenditure, but chiefly to the collection of more than half a million of land revenue in 1883-84 which ordinarily would have fallen to 1884-85, and to the removal of £325,000 from the revenue accounts, under the orders of the Secretary of State in connection with the Indus Flotilla and the Sind, Punjab and Delhi Railway. This latter sum represents the loss in past years on the Indus Flotilla of the Sind, Punjab and Delhi Railway. In the Revised Estimates of 1883-84 it was written off against revenue by a credit to capital; but it has now been altogether removed from the Revenue account. Put aside these two items, which account for nearly one million sterling, we find that the normal increase of revenue in 1883-84 was not very great. The opium revenue was, however, £356,500 better than the Estimates, and Excise, Stamps and Forest revenue, between them, gave an improvement of £239,000. Some other heads of revenue exhibit slight increases. The Revised Estimates for 1884-85 show a deficit of £716,200, whereas the Budget Estimates had reckoned on a surplus of £319,300. This deficit is attributed in part to the accelerated payment of land revenue above mentioned and in part to the fact that land revenue amounting to £343,900, which should have been ordinarily collected in 1884-85, has been suspended until the ensuing year on account of partial failure of crops caused by

drought in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. Again, there has been a heavy falling off, during the year, in Railway receipts, in consequence of the stagnation of the wheat trade. The customs revenue has also fallen by £259,500 owing to the depression in the rice trade. On the other hand, a sum of £593,600 larger than that which was estimated on account of opium expenditure had to be provided during the current year, in consequence of the extraordinary yield of opium. The Finance Minister gives the customary explanations under those heads where the receipts and the expenditure of the Revised Estimates shew considerable difference from the estimates taken in the Budget. It is worthy of note that under the head of *Loss by Exchange*, the amount provided in the Revised Estimate of 1884-85 is below that assigned in the Budget Estimate of that year by £285,200, though there has been a fall in the value of silver. This apparently favourable result is due to an unexpected receipt, during the course of the year, of £1,704,400 on account of capital of Southern Mahratta Railway, and to the expected recovery of £325,000 on account of advances now being made in India towards the Suakim expedition. Owing to these, as well as to other causes, the Secretary of State has been able to reduce his drawings on India by nearly 2¾ millions. If it had not been for this, the Revised Estimates for 1884-85 would have anticipated a larger deficit. And it must be remembered that before the year closes considerable expenditure will have to be incurred on account of the proposed camp to be formed at Rawal Pindi for the reception of the Amir of Cabul.

We now come to the Budget estimates of 1885-86. They are as follows:—"Revenue £72,090,400; expenditure, £71,582,000; surplus, £508,100. The Finance Minister explains that a sum of £585,000 has been allotted from revenue for capital expenditure on Railways and for Harbour Defence Works, in the ensuing year, and that this sum would otherwise have formed part of the surplus of revenue over expenditure. On the other hand £585,000 has been omitted from the estimates as the drawings of the Secretary of State will be reduced this year by a sum yielding a saving of exchange to the above amount. In other words, the loss of exchange on £2,225,000 sterling, is not entered in the Budget Estimates for the ensuing year, and as that figure amounts to £585,000, by this amount the Government of India understates what should be regarded its liabilities of expenditure. Excluding these two items, the net result is an equilibrium of revenue and expenditure. The Finance Minister further explains that the Railway and Customs Estimates have been framed with due regard to the present depression in trade; and that the rate of exchange for 1885-86 has been taken at 1s. 7d. The average price of Bengal opium has been taken at under Rs. 1250 per chest. The number of chests to be sold in 1886 will be announced hereafter. It is stated that all expenditure connected with the expedition to Suakim, other than ordinary expenditure such as would have been borne had the troops remained in India, will be defrayed by the English Government. The Finance Minister points out that the main features of the coming year are that it will give an effect, in the Budget, to the measures recommended by the Parliamentary Committee on Indian Railways which sat last year; and that owing to the depression in the wheat and rice trade the estimates of railway and customs receipts have been taken at a considerably lower figure than those expected in a normal year. Sir Auckland Colvin, in analysing the financial situation, thus sounds the note of warning:—"If during the ensuing year we are not called upon to submit to any material increase of expenditure, the estimates, based as they are in a very low rate of exchange and a very moderate calculation as to the revival of our trades, may I think, be trusted to bear the test of trial. Should trade revive, or exchange become more favourable, we shall have resources ample to meet our estimated expenditure. On the other hand, it is impossible to say whether additional expenditure may not in the course of the year have to be provided for, exceeding the limits of any addition which our revenues may reasonably hope to derive from strengthening our railway receipts or from improvement in our exchange. To put it in other words, heavily as we are weighted from the two causes above indicated, there is no reason why our resources should not fully suffice to meet all normal expenditure during 1885-86. But if abnormal expenditure, whether of a temporary or permanent kind, is forced upon us, our estimates, even should they be strengthened by a more favourable combination of exchange and trade, may very probably prove unequal to meet it. It is to be hoped that the financial prosperity, the good harvests, and the undisturbed peace which have of late years been accorded to us will continue. But it is necessary to state clearly the position in which, owing to the concurrence of a variety of unfavourable conditions, we find ourselves placed in order that considerations which inevitably presented themselves when the estimates were being framed may be fully explained to the public, and that we may not be charged, should difficulties increase upon us, with having taken too sanguine a view of our position." It will thus be seen that if unforeseen difficulties do not arise the ordinary receipts will be equal to the ordinary expenditure.

ENFORCED WIDOWHOOD.

After having noticed the position of the British Indian Association on the question of Early Marriage, it now remains for us to examine its observations on a question of equally great importance, *viz.*, that of "Enforced Widowhood." It has been complained that although there has been legislation authorising and recognising remarriage of Hindu Widows since 1856, the statute has remained almost a dead letter, because social customs, habits and feelings of the country have operated against it. If so, why apply the term "enforced" to it, and produce a false impression? The freedom in regard to marriage which Hindu widows now enjoy is as absolute as law can make it, and quite as great as people have to abandon one religion for another. What then is wanted by the reformer is not the removal of legal difficulties, but special one-sided aid from the State. The Government is, accordingly, called upon to pass the following rules:

I. That no Hindu girl, who has lost her husband or her betrothed, if she is a minor, shall be condemned to life-long widowhood against her will.

II. That arrangements may be made, in suspected cases, to ascertain whether a widow has adopted perpetual seclusion voluntarily, or whether it has been forced upon her.

III. That every widow, of whatever age, shall have the right to complain to the authorities of social ill-usage (over and above excommunication,) and proper facilities shall be afforded her for the purpose, such as the gratuitous service of counsel, exemption from the stamp duty, attendance at court, and so on.

IV. That the priest has no right to excommunicate the relations and connections of the parties contracting second marriage, besides excommunicating the principals.

It is needless to point out that the first rule has no meaning in the face of the Widow-remarriage Act. The Committee of the British Indian Association rightly observes that

No widow can be condemned to life-long widowhood against her will, when she has the right of exercising her will. As a minor she has not that right, and must during her nonage remain content with the discretion of her parents or guardians, and the law must be oppressive indeed in an eminent degree which would transfer the guardianship to strangers who desire to help her to remarry. It is difficult to concieve the amount of mischief which such a law would bring on. Can the Government reasonably and efficiently take in hand the guardianship of such minors, and insist upon the natural guardians paying for the maintenance and support of such wards?

As regards the second rule, it drops the qualification 'minor' and, therefore, applies to all widows. The Government in these cases is to be the prosecutor, and to carry on inquisitorial proceedings of a character, which would prove the greatest curse to any society on which it may be brought to bear. We are not told if the reforming spirit of the eminent author of the "Notes," ever prompted him to think of the agency through which the Government can act in such matters.

The Committee is right in observing that the first part of the 3rd rule is redundant:

Every widow has, under the present law of the land, power to complain to the civil authorities for any injury she may sustain by the illegal act of her castemen, and nothing further can be wanted, unless the object be to force her relations and neighbours to give up their civil rights for her benefit. The second part refers to details about counsel's fees, stamp duty, and so forth, regarding which the Committee do not think it necessary, to make any remark. They do not quite understand what is meant by 'attendance at Court.' If it should imply that prosecutions may be carried on by muktears without the personal examination of the plaintiff, all safeguards to false, harrassing, vindictive litigation will be removed.

The fourth also would be uncalled for. So far, at least, as Bengal is concerned:

Here the priests have no hand in excommunications. The leading castemen, the heads of society, called *Dalapatis*, who represent the Punchayets of Northern India and the Marhatta country, are the persons who decide such questions, and the 4th rule, if it is to be tolerated, should apply to them and not to priests. In Bengal, moreover, excommunication is limited to inviting, and accepting invitations from, persons put out of caste, and it is difficult to conceive how the Government is to deprive private individuals of their unquestioned civil right to select their own guests or host. The laws of the land already provide for acts of oppression implied by the terms "rattening" and "boycotting," and nothing further can be done.

The rule contemplates the suppression of the civil right of the large majority for the comfort and convenience of a small minority, which we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the Government will ever think of tolerating.

The concluding observations of the letter of the Committee of the British Indian Association ought to be pondered over deeply before any rash and ill-judged steps are taken, whether by reformers or by the Government upon whose aid and co-operation the author of the Notes so confidently counts:

The Committee readily admit that the law of the re-marriage of Hindu widows has not proved so fruitful of result as could be wished by its advocates. But this is not a matter for wonder. Young girls under 13 or 14 years of age can be easily given away in marriage without consulting their wishes, because they are not in a mental condition to judge for themselves; but the case becomes different when widows of 18 years and more have to be dealt with, and who cannot but assert their will. In such cases courtship is the only means of influencing their minds, and courtship implies a change of dress, manners, habits and customs of Hindu society—in short a complete boulversement of the Hindu social fabric, which cannot readily be accomplished. Hence it is futile to expect a rapid change. The Committee, moreover, do not at all admit the truth of the horrors Mr. Malabari has painted. Without in the least wishing to discourage the re-marriage of widows, they deny that the evils are so great as he imagines, and such as they are, they cannot be materially reduced by more extensive widow marriages. The total number of men willing to marry cannot be increased by any fair legislative measure; if a part of these men take widows for their wives, there will be a corresponding number of spinisters left in society, and the evils will thrive quite as much among them as they now do among widows. This is a view of the question to which the Committee would specially invite the attention of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor.

Adverting to the last part of the quotation our contemporary of the *Indian Daily News* observes "His Honour will hardly need to have his attention specially invited to the fact that it by no means follows that the evils will thrive quite as much among the spinisters who would be left unmarried as they do now among the unmarried widows." This is, however, not fair on his part. We discussed this subject at great length a few months ago, and challenged our contemporary to point out where we had erred. He then declined to take up our glove, under what, we thought, specious pretences, and it ill becomes him now to revive the question by a sidewind. It is impossible to believe that he does not know that the cause of the evil is much more deep-seated than the repetition of the marriage service over a child, or that a widow who has had the said service mumbled over her at her fifth year is *ipso*

facto more prone to fall from the path of rectitude at her 25th year than a spinister of the same age. If he does not, argument would be thrown away upon him.

We would in conclusion quote the very pertinent remarks that Mr. A. O. Hume has made in speaking of this most important subject. "I entertain no doubt," says Mr. Hume, "that according to the Hindu *Sastras* the re-marriage of widows involves a loss of caste. That being so, I could press no Hindu brother, who conscientiously accepts these ancient writings, not merely as the teaching of eminently pious men (and therefore necessarily imperfect, suited only to the time in which they were written and open to correction in the light of a more advanced civilization), but as the immutable commands of the Almighty. I could, I say, ask no such Hindu, to do violence to his conscience by transgressing what he believes to be the laws of god, *even were the evils resulting from this enforced widowhood tenfold what they are.* No, let the real believer, who lives honestly and truly by his *Sastras*, still keep his widowed daughter or daughter-in-law unmarried, according to his creed—in such a house no harm will come to her. It may seem hard on the poor girls, but in a truly pious household, trials are but the seeds of future glories." We have allowed Mr. Hume to express what he thinks to be the exact views of the orthodox Hindu on the subject. Mr. Hume has been in the country, for a long time; he has known the Hindus as they are, long and well, and his sympathies for the people of the country are keen, intense and well-known. It is nothing to be wondered at that Mr. Hume speaks in this strain, and his sentiments are those of every orthodox Hindu.

We are the very last persons to say that the remarriage of Hindu widows ought not to be encouraged. Let the widows remarry by all means, but only treat them as rational beings, and let them use their own discretion in the matter. As "enforced widowhood" cannot be too strongly condemned, so enforced widow-marriage cannot be too strongly censured. The impulse must come from within; and social forces must bring about the desired change. Enforced legislation will be utterly powerless to effect the contemplated reforms.

Want of space prevented the above remarks from being inserted in our last issue. We have since read, in the last number of the *Indian Spectator*, Mr. Malabari's comment on the letter of the British Indian Association. It is in the writer's usual style of flippancy and gush, which calls for no remark. It is amusing, however, to note that the writer admits his suggestions to be "crude," naively adding by way of explanation that the crudity is due to his want of legal knowledge. We will quote his exact words: "How do these gentlemen meet me? They take up one or two of my crude suggestions which I could not word properly in the absence of legal knowledge. And therefore they argue me out of Court." He then turns round on his critics and charges them with want of fair play. He says, "they ignore the existence of my second Note and of the numerous suggestions, all more or less practical, made by competent Hindu reformers as well as by myself. When requested to make their own suggestions, they back out of the discussion, saying it is impossible to suggest a remedy for the evils which, in self-defence, they will not admit to be wide-reaching in their effects." This is to say the least disingenuous. The writer is perfectly well aware that his first "crude" Notes were what the Government circulated at his request, and the British Indian Association could not, with any propriety, travel out of them to notice in an official letter newspaper discussions, even when they appeared in a would-be Government organ. Jupiter *Parvus* misleads the public when he insinuates that which is not by saying "when requested to make their own suggestions &c." The Government never asked for suggestions, nor for any remarks on newspaper discussions In the closing years of the nineteenth century the desire for notoriety, for credit, for reforming zeal, is as much an interested motive as the wish to get a pecuniary reward and, we are unable therefore, to lay any store on the claim to disinterestedness. It is too transparent to be worthy of notice.

THE SEQUEL OF THE TENANCY ACT.

THE Tenancy Bill has now become the law of the land, but the time has not passed away for further discussion on the subject. Nay, discussion and agitation have now become more imperative than ever, in order to place the case in the clearest light before the great British public. Those who have been injured, those who have been subjected to grave injustice, those who have been despoiled of their patrimony, cannot rest content with their lot, without appealing to their Sovereign for relief. Contented they never will be: no man can be, who has been subjected to such a grievous wrong. Their descendants, three generations hence, may forget their loss, but not they. It may suit the convenience of Sir Rivers Thompson and his party to talk of all agitation being now over; but over it shall not be until the people know the final decision of their Sovereign. Agitation may then be over, but the injured will never cease to brood in sullen discontent over their lot. And the wider the mischief will spread which the Act will work, the deeper will sink the feeling of the injustice that has been done. We are no alarmists, and would heartily wish that all agitation should cease, and peace and contentment should reign everywhere. As loyal and faithful subjects of our gracious Sovereign, it is our earnest wish, as it is our duty, to promote peace and contentment; but, as public journalists, it is our duty, likewise, to point out with all our earnestness all causes of mischief and all sources of evil. We look upon the Tenancy Act as pregnant with the greatest evil, and we would belie our profession if we did not in time warn our rulers of the mischief they are brewing. Sir Rivers may think we are assuming the role of *Bombastes Furioso*; he may denounce us as "dishonest and dishonorable," even as he did our predecessor, for raising his voice against a "fugitive slave-law" for India. He may denounce the whole Native Press of India as "indulging in language which no Government would ever have tolerated." But as long as liberty of speech is not withheld from us, we feel it our duty to denounce that which is sure to do incalculable harm to the subjects of our Sovereign, and this is one of the occasions when we should do so without the slightest fear or favor. Ideas may vary considerably in different individuals under different circumstances; but if there be any fixed standard of right and wrong; if right and wrong be diametrically opposite; if the one be good and the other be evil; there should be no difficulty in showing that we have now to deal with evil and not good. It may suit the convenience of Mr. Reynolds to say that the Act under notice is merely a translation of Lord Cornwallis' Regulations in modern language, and Sir Rivers Thompson may think fit to *ditto* the statement, in order to invest the subject with the appearance of dignity and grace. But facts are facts, and will not yield even to the colouring given to them by a Lieutenant-Governor. It would take more space than we care to spare to describe here all the rights, titles, immunities and privileges which Lord Cornwallis assigned to the Zemindars of Bengal in his Proclamation and in his Permanent Settlement Regulations. Whatever those rights were they were enjoyed to the full for six and sixty years—for full two generations. It was in 1859 that the first encroachments were made on those rights and privileges. Act X. of that year for the first time introduced the principle of occupancy right after a continuous occupation of a plot of land for 12 years. Originally, the right was unknown in the Permanent Settlement Regulations. That Act, likewise, first imported the theory of presumptive evidence after 20 years' uniform rent. The last was, however, a mere matter of procedure, and not an actual principle of law. But, whatever the change, the law worked smoothly enough for a quarter of a century, and it needed much more cogent evidence than what the Government has yet been able to produce to justify a change. Anyhow, on the whole, the zemindars have for a period of ninety-one years enjoyed all but totally undisturbed certain rights and privileges, and the question is, how many of those rights and privileges they have been deprived of, and what they have got in return? It would take more space and time than we can spare to enumerate all the deprivations that have been authorized by the new law. But we may enumerate a few.

Hitherto tenures have had attached to them certain privileges which simple raiyati holdings had not. The same distinction remains still. But our legistators have, by a fluke, converted all raiyati holdings above ninety-nine bighas into tenures. We call this a 'fluke,' because it is more expressive than the legal term 'presumption,' which our legislators have used. But whatever the term, the zemindars have now lost all control over plots above ninety-nine bighas. The power of enhancement has been curtailed in every possible way that legal ingenuity can devise, and, lest it should be impossible for a Court to decline enhancement on the grounds allowed, the Court is invested with discretionary power of ordering the said increase to have effect gradually in course of five years. In all other parts of India, enhancements are permitted once in every ten years. In Bengal there was no such limit up to 1859. Act X fixed it at five years, and under the new law it has been raised to fifteen years. The right of occupancy, first created in 1859, has been so developed now as to leave nothing beyond its grasp. Out of respect for the Secretary of State, and by way of a liberal profession, the period of 12 years is still recognized as a necessary condition for the accrual of the right. But riders to this condition have been so devised as practically to do away altogether with the condition. The mere fact of possession is to imply 12 years' occupancy, and every raiyat of a village is to be *ipso facto* an occupancy-holder, and the burden of proof is transferred from the claimant, as in the ordinary law of all civilized Governments, to the defendant, who is called upon to prove the negative. The right, moreover, has not been assigned to the raiyat who creates it by continuous occupancy; it has been made inherent in the land itself, so that even the purchase of an occupancy tenure by a zemindar cannot obliterate its occupancy character and free it from its incidents. It is generally believed that, within the last quarter of a century, no less than from 70 to 80 per cent. of the raiyati lands of the country have been converted into occupancy tenures under the operation of Act X of 1859. This means that the zemindars have lost their absolute right to 70 to 80 per cent. of their property, and it is not difficult to calculate what time it would take under the new stringent law to alienate the remainder from their hands. And lest some unfortunate non-occupancy-holder should escape the drag-net provided by Government, it has been devised that practically there should be no such thing as a tenant-at-will. The very act of tenancy is to carry with it a lease of five years, and if the tenant is not, at the termination of that lease, at once ejected,—and even such ejectment is hedged in by a right of compensation under certain circumstances—there must be a renewal of the lease that completes the period for creating a permanent occupancy right. In fact the Government had not the courage openly to declare that all lands, now in the possession of tenants, should at once become their property, and so our legislators went in a round about circuitous way to devise provisos to attain that object without an open declaration. Some officers of Government were bold enough at one time to suggest the summary plan, and to declare that the mere act of entry on another's land, instead of being looked upon as a trespass, as in all civilized countries, should create a permanent proprietary right for the trespasser. Sir Ashley Eden thought this would be too barefaced, and suggested three years' actual occupancy. The Secretary of State would not tolerate this, and insisted upon retaining the old rule of 12 years; and legislative ingenuity has now so completely over-ridden it, without putting forth any open defiance of 12 years, that henceforward no zemindar will have left any land in his hands that is not a permanent tenure of one kind or another. Even his *khamar*, *nijabad*, and reclaimed lands, as well as alluvial accretions, which were given them in absolute gift for ever, at the time of the Permanent Settlement, are now to pass

away from their hands—under some rule or other. Reclamations of jungles are to fare better. They are to have a vitality of 30 years, and then pass on to the raiyat. Thus proprietary right has at once been taken away, and that of enhancement all but nullified; and those who complain of the loss are taunted with the grotesque mockery that they are very grasping and discontented.

Nor are they let alone with their present income, bereft of all prospect of participating in the unearned increment. The powers of ejectment,attachment, and distraint have all been entirely taken away from them, and the process of recovery of rent through the Civil Courts has been made so troublesome, expensive, and tedious as to involve most serious losses. At the same time penal provisions have been so multiplied as to make the life of a zemindar one continuous round of law-suits, fines, and harassment. Moreover, provisions have been made for further heavy taxation, so that as little may be left to the zemindar as possible. And this is what Sir Rivers Thompson and Mr. Reynolds describe as a modern translation of Lord Cornwallis' Permanent Settlement Regulations! If this be not an insult added to injury, we know not what is.

We are bound to admit that the new law affords certain advantages to zemindars; for instance, the difficulty now encountered in proving enhancement of price will in future be overcome by recognizing the Government price-lists as evidence under Sec. 39. But this is offering the shell after abstracting the yolk. The evidence must show an increase of over ⅓ of the old prices, and then the presiding officer is to exercise his discretion as to whether the enhancement should be allowed at once or gradually in course of five years. Sec. 84 gives landholders power to acquire land in their own estates for a useful purpose, such as cutting drains, establishing schools, making houses for tenants, *etc*; but with their means sadly crippled, as they will be, under the law, the opportunities for making improvements will be but few, and the power given may be looked upon as a mere show of liberality. In addition to the above there are three sections which do not occur in the old laws. These are Sections 23, 75 and 88; they refer to damages for impairing the value of land, and, to the non-recognition of transfers and divisions of holdings without notice. But these are by no means practically new, for they only formulate the results of judicial decisions of the last five-and-twenty years. But such as they are, we leave them to speak for themselves. They may be advantages, but they are of no greater value than the "collateral advantage" of a dose of castor-oil which Indigo-planters claimed to have occasionally dispensed to make up for the loss which raiyats sustained by their best lands being taken up for the unremunerative cultivation of indigo, the frequent acquaintance they made with *Shamchand*, and the occasional free bed and board they obtained in indigo-godowns.

We referred last week to certain improvements effected in the Bill by order of His Excellency the Viceroy, but we distinctly pointed out that they were abatements from excessive demands and not *concessions*. As the Bill passed from hand to hand, from the Rent Commission to the Lieutenant-Governor, from the Lieutenant-Governor to the Government of India, (where Sir Rivers Thompson revised it,) from the India Government to the Secretary of State, from the Secretary of State to the India Government, from the India Government to the Legislative Department, from the Legislative Department to the Select Committee, from the Select Committee to the Bengal Government, and from the Bengal Government to the Select Committee back, it grew in bulk, like a snow ball, acquiring layer after layer of vicious provisions, the only aim and object of which were how to transfer the proprietary right in land from the zemindar to the raiyat, and suggestions and amendments multiplied by scores at every step, and it was some of these suggestions that Lord Dufferin rejected. He did not suggest a single clause to add to the advantages which the zemindars had hitherto enjoyed. We are thankful to His Excellency for checking the hand of the destroyer, but we cannot accord to him the merit of having made any 'concession,' and it grieves us to add that the odium of passing this most obnoxious spoliatory Act must rest on him. Would it were otherwise!

THE ETHICS OF THE TENANCY ACT.

FIFTEEN years ago, when the Government of Lord Mayo resolved upon setting aside the Permanent Settlement by imposing the Road Cess, grave difficulties arose as to how to assess and realize the cess without incurring heavy collection charges, and bringing on inquisitorial visitations on the raiyats. Official ingenuity failed to solve the problem. But a native gentleman, a zemindar, thought the opportunity a good one for removing a long-felt grievance. He suggested that every zemindar should submit a return in full detail of all his tenantry, and undertake to realise, for the Government, free of charge, the amount of the cess in return for adequate legal facility in collecting rent. The Government was morally bound, both by its position as a government in a civilized country and as a party to a contract by which it required the other contracting party to collect and pay, punctually at a given day, the proceeds of its land revenue, under the most stringent penalty, to provide the facility without demanding a further return; but it did not, and the opportunity was thought a good one to propose the scheme. The idea was grasped at with avidity by the Government, and the most solemn promises were made for the *quid pro quo*. The Bill for the Road Cess was at once got up and passed, and a Bill for facility in collecting rent was, likewise, got up, but could not be passed on account of some difficulty or other. The promise for the *quid pro quo* was renewed by Sir Richard Temple, but not redeemed, though a second Bill was devised. The promise was again renewed by Sir Ashley Eden, when he imposed additional burdens on the zemindars in the form of the Public Works Cess. But the promise again remained unfulfilled. The two cesses, amounting to 75 lacs, the cost of collecting them, about 8 per cent., and the loss by unavoidable failure in realization, coming up to ten per cent. of the rental, added a grievous burden of about a million of pounds sterling on the zemindars. But the facility for collecting rents, in the hope of which the burden was suggested and undertaken, remained unrealised. The Government,however, did not cease to renew, and to profess to hold itself bound by,its promise, and at last brought forward the Rent Bill, to redeem its engagement. That Bill has now transformed its chrysalis-state into the butterfly of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and the long and oft-repeated promise of relief has culminated in the total deprivation of the power of distraint, which had hitherto afforded the most important facility which the zemindars had of recovering their rent, and which is recognised; in one form or another, as the most legitimate means of collecting rent by every civilized Government. We are averse to charge our Government with any improper motive, with any breach of faith, with any want of respect for promises; the persons concerned are all hon'ble men, and they can mean no wrong; but the facts remain that an evil was admitted; that three Lieutenant-Governors and three Viceroys repeatedly promised frankly, officially, and in the most solemn manner to remove it, as much in consideration of a substantial and very valuable service, as from a sense of the duty they owed to the people; and that the redemption of the promise has now been made, by aggravating the evil a hundred-fold. The zemindars may be bad men, wicked men, oppressive men; but their grievance was admitted to be true, and the Government pledged itself as solemnly, sincerely, and faithfully as any civilized Government can to its subjects, and the pledge has been redeemed by making that grievance infinitely more oppressive. Sir Rivers Thompson is an hon'ble man, a God-fearing man, and a man of vast and versatile experience in state-craft, and we appeal to him to say, if this mode of redeeming a promise is worthy of a high and mighty civilized Government? We have no hesitation in saying that such a mode of redeeming a promise, if adopted in private life, would be condemned in words which we do not feel disposed to write down. We do not wish here to say a word against security for the tenures of raiyats; let it be as perfect as human law can make it; but we do hold, and every business man will agree with us, that such security is compatible with a redemption of promise. We are no zamindars ourselves, and our sympathies are entirely with the raiyats. But above all our likes and dislikes—our sympathies and antipathies—we have a respect for abstract justice, and that determination to abide by our promises, which among Englishmen is known by the name of 'word of honor.' Policy, or politics, or state-craft may suggest diverse interpretations of the words, but, as private individuals, we can only look upon them from our own stand-point, and we cannot avoid the conviction that the promise of Government in this instance has most miserably miscarried, and that the odium of this sad miscarriage rests, primarily, with Sir Rivers Thompson, and, secondarily, with the Council of Lord Dufferin. Divested of the evil surroundings which Sir Rivers and his officers had conjured up, the question was a very simple one, and it pains us to observe that Lord Dufferin and his advisers should have failed to grasp it. We know of no one so ignorant or so foolish as would for a moment deny that the Government has an inherent right to legislate for the protection of every class of the people, but we are among those who believe, that protection for one class is not subversive of the sanctity of pledges to another, and in the present instance the Government could have kept its promise to the zemindar, and at the same time have done every thing fair for the raiyat. It is the paramount duty of Government to afford all due protection to life and property in regard to every class of its subjects, but, alas! our Government has thought fit to injure one class for benefitting another, and shown to the world that its pledges are, at least in one instance, mere sound and nothing more.

And even as flagrant is this breach of promise so is the breach of faith involved in the alterations made in the terms of the Permanent Settlement. So much has, however, been already written on this subject by the different parties concerned, not excepting the highest judicial officers of the state, that it would be a waste of time to dilate on them here. The authors of the Act have repeatedly protested against the charge of breach of faith; but the protests have sufficed to convince none, and the belief is universal that they were intended more to silence opposition than to demonstrate the fact. Anyhow the conviction is universal that a powerful Government has done a wrong—it may be a mistaken one, but it exists,—and no Government which desires to avoid offending the sympathy of its subjects should have given cause for such a conviction to be formed. If there be any truth in the saying that next to justice is the conviction that justice has been done, it has been sadly contravened in the present instance.

THE LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BILL.

AT the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council on the 14th instant, the Hon'ble Mr. Macaulay moved that the further report of the Select Committee on the Bill to extend the system of Local Self-Government in Bengal, be taken into consideration in order to the settlement of the clauses of the Bill. Mr. Macaulay explained at some length some of the principal amendments which had been made by the Select Committee. With reference to the direction clauses of the Bill, he said:

The Secretary of State, in his despatch of the 8th October 1883, after suggesting the establishment of district boards, presided over, at all events in the first instance, in most cases,by the District Magistrate as a substitute for the Central Board which he had nagatived, said: 'It appears to me that if the plan which I have sketched out were adopted, the Government would be able, with due regard to the public interest, to leave even more in the hands of the local bodies than it could do with safety when trusting only to the supervision of the Magistrate, acting apart and without the anvantage of constant intercourse with the members of the District Committee.' Now, the policy here indicated is that of securing efficient direction while enlarging the scope of local authority. In this direction the amended Bill contain-

ed the necessary provision in accordance with the Secretary of State's views, and the Lieutenant-Governor was given power to decide in every case whether he will appoint the Chairman of a District Board or call upon the Board to nominate one of its members as Chairman. This provision we have of course maintained.

It will be seen that it is proposed that the Lieutenant-Governor should retain the power of appointing the Chairman of the District Board. This is a most mischievous provision. We cannot understand why efficient direction cannot be secured without official interference. If it be admitted, that in most places the people are fully qualified to manage their own affairs, self-help can never be promoted by keeping the people continually under leading-strings. We cannot speak too strongly, therefore, of the positive harm that is intended to be done by thrusting an official Chairman upon the District Board.

The hon'ble member next adverted to the question of funds :

" In any general system of election for local bodies in rural tracts the main body of the electors must be the payers of Road Cess, persons, that is, who are not only interested in the proper expenditure of the funds to which they contributed, but interested also in the reduction of the amount which they contribute. We had, therefore, no alternative to choose from. We had to decide whether we should give an unfettered power of altering the rate of RoadCess and maintain a system of appointment for the constitution of local bodies, or make the power of alteration subject to the Lieutenant-Governor's sanction, and admit all Road Cess payers above a certain minimum in the most advanced districts to the privilege of electing representatives. We have decided to adopt the latter course, and I maintain that we have decided rightly."

Having thus secured the two essentials of direction and funds, the Select Committee considered themselves justified in drawing up a schedule of 17 districts in which the measure would, as regards at any rate the constitution of local bodies, be applied in its entirety, that is to say, that a local board would be established in every sub-division of these districts and that two-thirds of the members of every local board would be elected by qualified residents. The idea of the Select Committee has been to secure local knowledge and substantial local interest, and we agree with Mr. Macaulay in thinking that a raiyat who pays Rs. 64 a year of rent has a substantial local interest.

The provisions then regarding the rate of road cess and the constitution of the Local Boards, with the provision in regard to the institution of the District Boards—namely that Local Boards may appoint any person who, though not actually a member of their own body, is qualified to be a member, to represent them on the District Boards—these are the most important changes which have been suggested by the Select Committee. In Mr. Macaulay's opinion the Bill was a sound and workable scheme, containing ample safeguards for the well-being of the people, and calculated to promote self-help among them. We admit that the Select Committee has made many artistic improvements in the Bill. We pointed out at the time the original Bill was published that the Local Self-Government scheme, as it was framed by the Bengal Government, was a mere shadow without substance, and that like the mirage of the desert it created expectations, and never fulfilled them. We said, then, that the scheme would be a great farce, if it was not completely remodelled. How far these objections have been met we cannot make out. By removing all points of administrative improvements from the sphere of legislation to that of administrative discretion, the Committee have deprived the public of weighing the value of their suggestions. We are glad to notice that the Select Committee have effected improvements in the form and arrangements of the Bill, but we are not satisfied, that the Bill is yet in the shape in which it ought to be. The safeguards for the well-being of the people are not so amply provided as they should be. There are still many provisions which require careful consideration. We quite agree with the Hon'ble Kumar Baikanthanath Dey and the Hon'ble Jaiprakash Lal that the Bill should be republished to enable the people to express their opinion on the alterations suggested. The principles which have been enunciated in the Bill demand, as Kumar Baikunthanath justly said, the most mature deliberation of the Government and of the people. No opportunity should be lost to take the people into confidence. It was objected that there was delay already in the passing of the Bill, and that while other Governments had the Local Self-Government Act in working order, Bengal, admittedly the most advanced province in the Empire, is still without any such Act. The complaint of delay in such important legislative measures is not, however, entitled to the slightest consideration, simply because high-pressure-legislation in such matters is productive of incalculable mischief. As His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor pointed out, Bengal was much larger than any of the other provinces, with a larger population and greater local importance, and it was, therefore, both desirable and reasonable that the Legislature should take more time to frame the Bill. It was not, however, due to these considerations that the Bill had been delayed, but because of the long correspondence which had passed between the Local and Home Governments on the subject. The Legislative Council would not be doing its duty in forcing forward such an important measure through the Council, without giving an ample opportunity to the people to make their representations. It is clear that opinions are divided with regard to some of the most important sections of the Bill. Mr. Macaulay said that there were a few officers who thought the Bill went too far, and that there were some native Associations which thought that it did not go far enough. If Mr. Macaulay implies that —"Native Associations"—which delight in making "carping criticisms" on every measure which may be brought forward by Government—are unconscious of the benefits conferred by the Bill, and would never be satisfied by any amount of "concessions" the Government may make them, he is very much mistaken. These native Associations—the *bete noire* of the Bengal Government—represent the thoughts and feelings and wants and aspirations of the people, and their opinions and representations correctly indicate those of the people in whose name they speak. To show a contemptuous disregard for their representations is virtually to ignore the opinion of the people for whose well-being the Bill is framed. We cannot too strongly urge upon the Government the necessity for republishing the Bill in its amended form, for the purpose of collecting the opinion of the people on the report of the Select Committee, before the Bill is taken into consideration in the Council. The President said that if it was to be in the character of a general publication, it would have to be published in the vernacular also; and if that was to be adopted, it would take two or three months to translate, circulate, and collect opinions. Two or three months is a very short time in the history of such a measure. If Bengal could do without the passing of the Bill so long, surely the province can safely wait for another three months. Kumar Baikunthanath thought that a fortnight would suffice for the people of Bengal to submit their opinions. We differ from the hon'ble member in this opinion. A fortnight would be too short for the purpose. More than a fortnight is absolutely necessary for this purpose. The Council, however, did not see any neceessity for adjourning the consideration of the Bill for more than a fortnight, and accordingly Kumar Baikunthanath Dey's suggestion was adopted.

The Bill, as it now stands, is a permissive one, and depends in its usefulness entirely on Section 135, which authorises the Lieutenant Governor to do all and every thing, and we are ready to admit that he will do every thing that is good and proper; but we object to the principle of relegating the duty of legislation to purely administrative authorities. If the principle be sound there should be no legislation; if not, the relegation is a fraud on the law. Administrative discretion governed the country well enough for a century and more; but it was held in 1862 that it would be an improvement to have local legislatures, where outside local experience may be utilized, and hence the Bengal Council; but if the presence of the non-official members be a check to freedom of action, let them be done away with. Why keep up a sham meeting after meeting, if the task of framing laws be relegated to Government? The whole thing can be done at once by a single Act of one clause, saying that the Lieutenant-Governor is authorised to make all laws at his own discretion. All trouble and expense and annoyance would thereby be at once put an end to. It is observable that the relegations made in the Bill under notice refer mostly to those sections of the original Bill to which the public took serious exception.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

THE Amir of Cabul arrived at Jellalabad on the 18th instant. General Gordon has proceeded to Ali Musjid to meet the Amir. The Peshwar troops march out to Jumrood to escort the Amir into Peshwar. The Amir arrives at Rawal Pindi on the 27th. The Viceroy leaves Calcutta this evening, and is expected to arrive at Rawal Pindi on the 28th. On the 30th there will be a grand Durbar; on the 31st a grand review, to be followed by three days' negotiations; then a final grand review, and the breaking up of the Camp by the 4th April.

THE resignation by the Duke of Connaught of his appointment on the Divisional Staff of the Army in India, has, we learn, been postponed.

THE Army estimates this year amount to £17,375,000 showing an increase of £1,125,000, not including the Nile and Suakim Expeditions.

THE latest news from the Boundary Commission is that Sir Peter Lumsden was at Gulran on the 13th instant.

THE High Court has discharged the rule against Laluram Panday of the Purnea case notoriety.

THE First Annual Meeting of the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association was held at the Town Hall on Friday last under the presidency of Mr. Keswick.

A RULE has been issued against the Rev. Mr. Hastie to show cause why his order of release—which was made *ex parte*, and without service of notice to Miss Pigot, or her constituted legal advisers—should not be set aside.

THE Government of India have sanctioned the appointment to the Statutory Civil Service in Bengal of Babu Suryakumar Agasti, and of Babu Ashutosh Gupta, both of the Subordinate Executive Service. Babu Suryakumar passed first and Babu Ashutosh passed second in the recent competitive examination for admission.

IN THE case of Empress *vrs.* Charles Palmer of the District Charitable Society Defalcation notoriety, the jury unanimously returned a verdict of *not guilty*, with regard to the charge of abetment of criminal breach of trust, but as regards the other charges of cheating, five jurors were of one opinion and four of another. The prisoner has been ordered to be discharged, the discharge to operate as an acquittal.

WE ARE glad to notice in the *Pioneer* that the Government of Bengal has appointed Babu Durgagati Banerjea, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, a member of the Commission for enquiry into the condition of the amlah class. This is as it should be; and we entirely concur with the *Indian Mirror*, in the opinion that the "appointment is a deserved compliment to the Subordinate Executive Service, and a fit recognition of the meritorious services of an Uncovenanted native officer." The Babu will bring to the task an amount of knowledge, local experience, and breadth of view, which will prove of infinite advantage to the enquiry. We confidently believe that he is one of the ablest officers in the service. We cannot, however, allow this opportunity to pass without once again expressing our wish

that to make the Commission complete there should be one or two non-official members on it. They may not bring the same amount of knowledge of details as official members, but they would for all that command great confidence in regard to questions of general principles.

WE HAVE received a correct account of the proceedings of the large and enthusiastic meeting of "those who object to the introduction into India of Land-laws framed on the lines of recent Irish land-legislation," held in January last at Willis's Rooms, London, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Bramwell, in the absence of the Earl Wemyss and March, who was prevented by illness from attending. Want of space obliges us to abstain from publishing the proceedings in *extenso*, and showing to our readers how strongly the Bengal Tenancy Bill is denounced by Peers, Members of Parliament, and other gentlemen of influence in England. The Chairman, Mr. Roper Lethbridge, Mr. C. T. Buckland, Earl Fortescue, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Mr. John Dacosta, Mr. Cornell, Mr. J. D. Ward, Mr. H. Stewart Reid, and Mr. Pretyman were the principal speakers. The most important resolution that was carried *nem con* was that "in the opinion of this meeting, it is absolutely necessary, considering the many amendments and protests reported to have been made by the majority of the Select Committee appointed to report upon the Bengal Tenancy Bill, that the Bill, in its present form, should be published for full consideration and discussion by all those whose interests are affected by it, before it actually passes into law." The Bill has passed into law, and even a respite of two or three weeks, moved by the Hon'ble Peary Mohun Mukerji, the representative of the zemindars, was not granted.

AT THE last meeting of the Central Committee of the Landholders, a protracted consultation was held as to what steps should be taken to save the people of Bengal, both zemindars and raiyats, from the disastrous consequences of the Bengal Tenancy Bill, which has now become the law of the land. The feeling expressed amounted almost to desperation. Official placidity may smile at the terrors of the zemindars, and Sir Rivers Thompson may, with the easy conscience of the victor, assure Lord Dufferin that there is nothing in them, and that things will now run in their humdrum-every day course; but the zemindars feel that the day of their tribulation and ruin is at hand, and that what had belonged to them and their ancestors for centuries, or had been acquired by the savings of a life-time are about to pass away from their hands, not owing to any fault of their own, but by an outrageous act of official high-handedness. Their only hope rests upon the sense of fair-play of the great English nation, and they proposed to appeal to it with the utmost earnestness possible. A deputation to England of the leading zamindars was the idea which found most favour, and the ways and means of carrying it out were discussed at considerable length. The difficulties to be overcome, however, are stupendous. Hindu devotion to religion is more earnest and unflinching than of any other nation on the face of the earth. With them the hereafter ranks infinitely higher than the present, and men of the highest rank in society, who by their devotion to their religion and rigid abhorence to strict morality would be worthy of trust as representatives, are just the men who most do seek solace, for all woes of this world, in their religion, and for them the task of setting aside hereafter for the present is a most arduous one. But men when desperate do many things which ordinary reason cannot calculate upon, and we shall not attempt, therefore, to forecast what the result will be of the last deliberations of the zemindars.

THE anxiety in England with reference to the present crisis in Central Asia and the Soudan seems to be intense, and the question of native loyalty plays a prominent part in it. A remarkable illustration of this occurs in a private letter of the renowned Professor Max Muller. Writing to a friend in Calcutta even on so lifeless a subject as Sanskrit literature, he says: "I wish India and particularly the native Princes, would follow the example of the Colonies. 'A friend in need is a friend indeed.' With all their faults you will not get better rulers than the English, and you know it." We can assure the learned Doctor that India and her Princes are loyal to the core, and will yield to no Colony in their devotion to the service of their Sovereign.

OUR readers may be curious to know how much India has to pay towards the expenses of the Boundary Commission. The average expenditure of the Indian portion of the Mission up to December last, was, we understand, something like six lakhs of rupees a month. The average cost of the Mission since it has passed out of the Amir's dominions will not fall short of 12 lakhs a month, or 144 lakhs a year. The salary of Sir Peter Lumsden alone has been fixed at £4,200 per mensem, exclusive of allowances. We are indebted to a correspondent of the *Statesman* for all this information.

GENERAL GRAHAM lately issued a proclamation, at Suakim summoning Osman Digma to surrender. But, as was expected, the redoubtable lieutenant of the Mehdi has not only taken no notice of it, but has assembled a force of 17,000 at Tamanieb, the scene of his former defeat. It is reported that when Osman heard that the whole of the Nile Expedition had returned, there were great demonstrations of rejoicings in the rebel camp. It is not at all surprising that the news of the retreat of Lord Wolsely's force would be received in Osman's camp with such rejoicings. But the day of reckoning is not far distant. General Graham is preparing to attack him. After an inspection of troops (March 19) by the General, the British advance commenced in the direction of Hasheen where the enemy was discovered to be assembled in strong force. The Cavalry, Mounted Infantry and Indian Infantry were sent to reconnoitre, the Guards being held in reserve. The reconnoisance was completed, and the British troops returned to camp. The enemy, it is said, on the approach of British troops retired. Sir E Wood will command the troops between Merawi and Dongola.

In French political circles it is asserted that the Turks and the Italians can alone pacify the Soudan—the Turks through Suakim to Berber, thence to Khartoum; the Italians from Massowah to Seneih and Kassala, thence to Khartoum *via* the Nile. England and France, it is said, are likely to furnish officers for the Egyptian Army now forming.

Since writing the above, the following telegrams have been received:

London, March 21.—General Graham telegraphs that his force started from the camp at Suakim at daybreak yesterday, and after severe fighting, cleared the hills in the neighbourhood of Hasheen. The enemy's force was estimated at four thousand men. General Graham and his force afterwards advanced towards Tamai. The Indian Lancers charged the enemy concealed in the bush and in the meanwhile an entrenched *zariba* was formed, which is now garrisoned by the 70th Regiment with six guns. The remainder of the force have returned to camp. Dobson, of the Scotch Fusiliers, and 8 men, were killed. Among the wounded were Harvey of the 5th Lancers, and Robertson of the 9th Bengal. Doctor Lane and 33 men were severely wounded. Enemy's loss was heavy.

In telegraphing an account of the engagement to Lord Wolseley, General Graham praised especially the Indian troops.

Korti, March 20.—Lord Wolseley inspected the camp at Abudom, eastwards of Merawi, and afterwards returned here.

Sir E. Wood has established his head-quarters at Debbeh. The British troops will evacuate Korti at the end of this month.

THE POOR of Calcutta have sustained an irreparable loss by the death, on Thursday last, of Babu Taraknath Pramanik. A brazier by caste, and by no means uncommonly wealthy, he occupied but a subordinate position in society. But no man in his time knew better the true use of wealth than he did. As the owner of a flourishing Dock, and carrying on extensive trade in metal-work, his earnings were large, much larger than of many men who are reputed wealthy, and to his honor be it said that no man earned money with more scrupulous respect for honesty than he did. And if he earned it largely and honestly he spent all he earned to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, and to help the destitute. During the Durgapuja, and the Rath Yatra, he distributed alms to many many thousands, many more than the richest in Calcutta help on such occasions. During the cold weather he distributed clothing to a very large extent, and his private charities were unrivalled. He lived in a very simple style. His house was by no means remarkable for size or elegance, and he kept no large retinue of servants and attendants. He was very hardworking by habit, and he worked hard to be able to do good to the poor. He was a strict Hindu of the old school. He followed the old Hindu method of indiscriminate private charity, and we cannot, therefore, appeal to any public institution endowed by him. But if praise may be regulated by pure benevolence, his name should occupy a most prominent place among those who have earned their distinction by doing good to their fellow-beings. He died at the ripe age of 68 years.

AFFAIRS in Central Asia look more promising. The fear of an immediate declaration of war has to a certain extent been dissipated. Both England and Russia feel convinced that it is the interest of both countries not to push matters to extremities. But no practical final settlement of questions at issue has yet been arrived at. England's demand that Russia should withdraw from the positions occupied by her to the south of Sarakhs has lapsed, and Russia claims the right to continue to hold the positions now in their occupation south of that place. Lord Granville stated in the House of Lords (March 16) that pending the results of diplomacy, an agreement has been come to with Russia, whereby both countries would evacuate the debatable territory. In the House of Commons Mr. Gladstone made a similar announcement, and added that an agreement had been made between Russia and England only, without reference to Afghanistan, as there had been no time to consult the Amir. This agreement, however, does not involve the retention of the positions occupied at present by Russia for an indefinite length of time. This means, we suppose, that England has acquiesced in the determination of Russia to hold on pending negociations those places which she surreptitiously took possession of while the Boundary Commission was proceeding. If the negotiations which are going on between the two countries do not come to a satisfactory conclusion, England would compel Russia to evacuate the debatable territory. The British Government, however, has not committed itself one way or the other. England is determined to maintain pacific relations so long as she can do so, consistently with the promotion of imperial interests. England acquiesces in the sullen determination of Russia not to give up an inch of ground she has got, simply because England sees more clearly than Russia that hostilities between the two countries just at present would be disastrous both to the Lion and the Bear. England, it is plain, wants to avoid bloodshed in the interest of humanity, but if the worst come to the worst, she is fully prepared to meet the enemy, and with India loyal to the core to her beloved sovereign, the British Government is sure to chastise the enemy. England has been doing her utmost to dissuade Russia from making advances towards Afghan territory. In November last our Government pressed Russia to withdraw her troops from positions beyond Sarakhs; but the Russian Government in reply to the demand explained that the positions occupied were in Russian territory, and declined, therefore, to withdraw. The British requisition was virtualy withdrawn. It is the earth-hunger of Russia that has brought about the present crisis, but she may be sure that the British nation will never allow her to make encroachments on Afghanistan and molest the Amir in any way. The position which is now occupied by the two countries is that of watchful expectancy, and if the present position is maintained for some time, and both parties abstain from agression, we cherish the belief that an amicable settlement of the questions at issue will be made. The firm and

resolute policy adopted by the British Government is having considerable influence on the course of Russian diplomacy. M. Lessar, who is now in England on behalf of Russia, now declares that Russia's intentions are pacific, that she has no designs upon Herat, and that Herat is beyond her sphere of action in Central Asia. Of course this statement is to be taken with due allowances. This may be the intention of Russia at the present moment, but there is no knowing how her intentions may be changed under the present critical state of affairs. The strangest part of the affair is that notwithstanding all this profession of pacific intentions, Russia is reported to be moving a force of 16,000 men towards Merv. The British Government has been assured that no further advance of Russian troops would be made, pending the action of the Boundary Commission. There is an ugly proviso, however, attached to this assurance. Russian troops will not advance beyond their present position, unless the Afghans made an advance, or disturbances occur at Panjdeh. Afghanistan then—or rather her refractory tribes—virtually holds the balance now in her hand.

WE BEG to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications:—

1. Report on the Administration of the Province of Assam for the year 1883-84.
2. Theosophy Unveiled.
3. Journal of the National Indian Association for March 1885.
4. The fifth Annual Report of the Jessore-Khulna Union for 1883-84.
5. Chaitanya Panjika for 1292 B. E.
6. Report of the Result of an Investigation into the Charges against Madame Blavatsky.
7. Sarala.
8. Saisava Kusum, part II.
9. Victoria Bharat.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN CONSUMPTION AND WASTING DISEASES.—Dr. Henry Hanks, author of "Consumption its Treatment and Curability," writes:—"The superior efficacy of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil over the pale Cod Liver Oil has proved in my experience, unequivocal. Patients who have persisted for several months in the use of the latter, with scarcely any perceptible improvement, have, after a brief trial of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, acquired such fatness, and those distressing symptoms accompanying emaciation have so rapidly subsided, that I have been induced to confide in its reputed remedial powers and consequently to advise its substitution for the Pale Cod Liver Oil." Benjamin Clarke, Esq, M. R. C. S. F. L. S., author of "Notes and Suggestions on Cod Liver Oil and its Uses," writes:—"The effect of the Pale Oil on the circulation is so feebly marked as not to be perceptible; so that in some cases of extreme debility, the patient, from the slowness of its action, is in danger of sinking from exhaustion, or the disease, as in consumption, may become incurable from protraction. My inference agrees with the remark that Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Oil effects a cure in half the time that the Pale Oil does." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints and quarts, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P.
Gopal Gobind Ghate, Esq., Kotree.....	13	4	0
Secretary Mylapore, Atheneum, Mylapore	19	0	0
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„ Saroda Persad Bannerjee, Orai.....	5	0	0
„ Kader Nath Gooin, Bankipore.....	10	0	0
„ Janoky Nath Shaw, Amla, Sudderpore...	19	0	0
„ Dulal Chunder Deb, Sylhet.....	5	0	0
„ Hurryhur Mookerjee, Bhapteati.....	0	9	0
„ Monmotho Nath Mukerjee, Gobindgunge	3	5	0
„ Lalit Mohan Singh Roy, Chuckdighy... ..	13	4	0
„ Janokee Persad, Buxar...	6	10	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette—18*th March* 1885.

GENERAL.—Baboo Shib Chunder Nag, Deputy Collector, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector, under section 4 of Act VII (B. C.) of 1880, in the district of Backergunge, Vice Baboo Kbrishna Chunder Roy, transferred.

Mr. D Cameron, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is transferred temporarily to Mozufferpore, and is posted to the sudder station of that district.

Mr. H J H Fasson, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Backergunge, during the absence, on leave, of Mr H Mosley, or until further orders.

Mr W B Martin, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to have charge of the Gopalgunge Sub-Divn of the Sarun dist.

Mr P H O' Brian, Assistant Magistrate and Collector Nuddea, is appointed temporaily to have charge of the Jhenida Sub-Divn of the Jessore district.

Mr S S Jones, Officiating Joint-Magte and Deputy Collector, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for three months, under section 72, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the 17th April 1885.

Baboo Rai Churn Ghose, Officiating Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, is allowed leave for one month under section 72, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 17th November last.

Mr T M Kirkwood, District and Sessions Judge, Moorshedabad, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge, Patna, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr F W R Cowley, or until further orders. This cancels the order of the 27th ultimo, appointing Mr Kirkwood to act as District and Sessions Judge of Bhagulpore.

Mr B L Gupta, Presidency Magistrate, on leave, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Moorshedabad, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr T M Kirkwood, or until further orders.

Mr. F W Badcock, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Moorshedabad, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge, Bhagulpore, during the absence, on leave, of Mr W H Verner, or until further orders. This cancels the order of the 27th ultimo, appointing Mr Badcock to act as District and Sessions Judge of Moorshedabad.

Baboo Mohini Mohun Chuckerbutty, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Tumlook sub-division of that District with effect from the afternoon of the 14th instant.

Baboo Juggobundhoo Bhuttacharjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on deputation as Head Assistant in the Revenue Department of the Bengal Secretariat, is allowed leave for three months, under section 72, chapter V if the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date as he may be relieved.

Mr F M Halliday, Commissioner of Patna, is allowed leave for three months, under section 72, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 15th April 1885.

Mr C H Vowell C S, reported his departure from India on furlough, on the 6th instant.

Baboo Probhat Nath Ray, Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is vested with the powers of a Collector, under Act X of 1870 in that district.

Baboo Radha Madhub Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cutwa, Burdwan, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that district.

POLICE.—Mr. C A Soppitt, Assistant Superintendent of Police of the third grade, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the second grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police, with effect from the 6th May 1884.

The Rev W H Bray, Chaplain, St John's Church, Calcutta reported his departure from India on furlough on the 22nd February 1885.

REGISTRATION.—Baboo Rughoonundun Sahai, Special Sub-Registrar, Patna, is allowed leave for one month, under section 72, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Baboo Ram Prosad Lal, Rural Sub-Registrar, Bahera Durbhunga, is appointed to act as Special Sub-Registrar of Patna, during the absence, on leave of Baboo Rughoonundun Sahai, or until further orders.

Baboo Thakur Persad is appintd to as Rural Act Sub-Registrar of Bahera in Durbhunga, during the absence on deputation, of Baboo Ram Prosad Lal, or until further orders

EDUCATION.—Baboo Bhairab Chundra Banerjea, Pleader of the High Court, Calcutta, is permanently appointed to be the Joint-Secretary to the Committee of management of the Bethune School.

Mr. A W CROFT, Director of Public Instruction, reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the 8th instant.

OPIUM.—Mr G Field, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, third grade, is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, second grade, with effect from the 2nd December 1884, *vice* Mr P Cosserat, deceased.

Mr A G Tytler, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, fourth grade is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, third grade, with effect from the 2nd December 1884, *vice* Mr G Field.

Mr H J Lloyd, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, fifth grade, is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, fourth grade, with effect from the 2nd December 1884, *vice* Mr A G Tytler.

Mr P J Luard, Officiating Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Allahgurh, is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of the fifth grade at Etwah.

Mr C Paterson, Officiating Sub-Deputy Opium Agent-Ghazipore, is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of the fifth grade at Seetapore.

Mr A Elliot, Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, second grade, on leave, is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of the fifth grade at Rai Bareily.

Mr H Hastings, Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, second grade, on deputation to Indore, is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, of the fifth grade, with effect from the 2nd December 1884, *vice* Mr H J Lloyd

Mr G deC Hobson, Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent to the first grade, on leave, is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of the fifth grade, with effect from the 22nd December 1884, *vice* Mr A F Mackenzie.

Mr G M Gregory, Temporary Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, second grade, on leave, is confirmed in that grade, with effect from the 2nd December 1884, *vice* Mr H Hastings.

Mr J S R Innes, Temporary Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, third grade, is confirmed in that grade, with effect from the 2nd December 1884, *vice* Mr G M Gregory.

Mr H Munro, Probationary Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Futtehgurh, is appointed temporarily to be an Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of the fourth grade, with effect from the 2nd December 1884 *vice* Mr W L L Reed.

Mr A F Mackenzie, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, fifth grade appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of the fourth grade, with effect from the 22nd December 1884, *vice* Mr N T Ryves, deceased.

Mr J C Sarkies, Temporary Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, second grade is confirmed in that grade with effect from the 22nd December 1884.

Mr H Blair, Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, third grade, is appointed temporarily to be an Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of the second grade, with effect from he 2nd December 1884, *vice* Mr G M Gregory.

Advertisements.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

(*Irrigation.*)

Notice is hereby given that the Western Main Series of the Sone Canals will be closed for urgent repairs from the evening of the 15th April 1885 to the evening of the 25th idem and the Eastern Main Series from the evening of the 25th April to the evening of the 5th May 1885.

Calcutta, 16th March 1885. (Sd.) C. W. ODLING, Under-Secretary.

THE BENGAL TENANCY ACT VIII OF 1885

BENGALI AND ENGLISH.

PUBLISHED BY KALI PRASANNA SEN GUPTA.

Price each Re. 1.

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A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 30th March 1885, at 3 P. M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To consider the budgets for the year 1885-86 as revised by the Committee.
2. To fix the rates at which the rates and taxes are to be imposed for the year commencing on the 1st of April 1885 under Section 64 of Act IV (B. C.) of 1876 as amended by Section 8 of Act VI (B. C.) of 1881 and Act I (B. C.) of 1882.
3. To confirm the proceedings of the Assessment Committee at a Meeting held on the 24th of February.
4. To confirm the proceedings of the Bustee and Tank Committee at Meetings held on the 19th and 27th of February.
5. To confirm the proceedings of the Loan Committee at a Meeting held on the 10th of March,
6. To confirm the proceedings of the Water Supply Extension Committee at a Meeting held on the 12th of March.
7. To confirm generally the proceedings of the Town Council at Meetings held on the 21st and 28th February and 7th March.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

DIABETES!!! DIABETES.!!!

(INSIPIDUS AND MELLITUS.)

ANTI-DIABETIC SPECIFIC.

Diabetes is a disease, the therapeutics of which is very unsuccessful up to present moment. No proper care has yet been devoted to its study. We had an especial eye on this subject for the last 15 years. The invariable success of our Anti-Diabeic Specific during this period of trial, has now brought us forward to speak of these in high terms before the public. The specific entirely removes frequent omission of large quantities of abnormal urine, general debility, loss of flesh, excessive thirst and sweat, mental depression, burning of the hands and feet &c, in a short time. The Saccharine, albuminous or any other morbid matter of the urine is stopped.

In short the regular use of the Specfic is sure to bring out perfect cure, health and strength.

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Indian Medical Hall,
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ANNUAL PREMIUM FOR ASSURANCE OF Rs. 1,000 UNDER NEW SYSTEM.

Age.	30	35	40	45
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Premium ...	21 5 4	24 8 8	28 10 0	33 14 8

Lower Safe Rates than any other Office.

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NUBIAN PLATE POWDER, for Silver ware. NUBIAN HARNESS OIL & POLISH COMBINED, in stone bottles. NUBIAN PET BOOT POLISH, for Ladies' use only. Our goods obtainable everywhere.
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Pharmaceutical Chemists,

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Persons suffering from CATARRH, CONSUMPTION, COLDS, or OBSTINATE COUGHS, and generally those afflicted with diseases of the chest, bronchia, or lungs, should use GRIMAULT & CO.'S SYRUP OF HYPOPHOSPHITE OF LIME, which, prescribed for years past by the medical authorities of all countries, has invariably effected wonderful cures.

By the use of this Syrup the Cough is calmed, nocturnal sweats disappear, and the appetite rapidly improves—a fact soon demonstrated by an increase of weight and improved appearance.

GRIMAULT'S SYRUP is of a rose colour, and contained in flat oval bottle.

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Renowned Physicians prescribe GRIMAULT'S MATICO as the most active and at the same time the most inoffensive remedy in the treatment of ACUTE AND CHRONIC DISEASES, These CAPSULES have not, like COPAIBA, the inconvenience of giving NAUSEAS. The Injection is used in recent, and the Capsules in the more chronic cases.

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This preparation enriches the blood, strengthens the bones, and improves all the vital energies.

Phosphate of Lime is the substance most necessary to life; indispensable for the formation and nutriment of the bony system, as for the transformation of food into muscular fibre. Without it the body wastes away, and it is to supply the lack of Phosphate of Lime that Dusart's Syrup is so useful. It is of inestimable benefit for CONVALESCENTS, WEAK and OLD PEOPLE, and RICKETY CHILDREN, who find in it the CALCAREOUS ELEMENTS entering into the CONSTITUTION OF THE BONES. Well adapted to LADIES in the FAMILY WAY. WET NURSES (whose milk it enriches)and to stop CHILDREN'S DIARRHŒA.

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20	62 2 0	46 8 0	39 0 0	20
25	64 12 0	48 8 0	41 0 0	25
30	68 8 0	51 10 0	44 0 0	30
35	73 8 0	56 0 0	47 12 0	35
40	79 8 0	61 0 0	52 2 0	40
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20	32 3 0	34 14 0	38 14 0	20
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30	42 4 0	48 0 0	57 6 0	35
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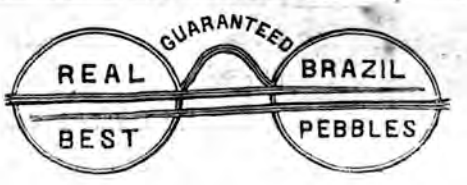

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NOTICE.

In supercession of all previous notices it is hereby notified that a special meeting of the Road Cess Committee of Hooghly will be held at the Committee's office, at noon on Monday, the 20th April, 1885, at which it will be proposed that the Road Cess Committee apply to the Local Government for authorities to construct a Tramway from Howrah to Burgachia the said tramway being situated partly in the area under the administration of the said Road Cess Committee and partly within the Howrah Municipality. It is hereby further notified under section 3, Act III, B. C. of 1883, that all objections to the proposed tramway must be submitted to the Chairman for the consideration of the said Road Cess Committee, before Monday, 20th April, 1885, the date fixed for the said special meeting.

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